

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN OCTOBER 2004

Natural soda ash production in October was 933,000 metric tons (t), 3% higher than the previous month's production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 323,000 t, 40% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in October was 1.40 million metric tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in September was 605,000 t, 16% higher than the September 2003 level of 522,000 t.

Exports and imports of soda ash in September 2004 were 339,000 t and 627 t, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through September 2004, compared with those of September 2003, were as follows: production was 3% higher, imports 11% higher, exports 5% higher, ending stocks 20% lower, and apparent consumption 6% higher.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Ending stocks	
2003:			
September	869	286	1,300
October	913	291	1,390
November	860	309	1,250
December	925	330	1,450
Total (January-October)	8,850	XX	12,800
Year total	10,600	XX	15,500
2004:			
January	857	331	1,310
February	852	291	1,330
March	937	264	1,500
April	913	281	1,430
May	935	299	1,340
June	894	252	1,240
July	963	318	1,400
August	929	266	1,490
September	907 ^r	230 ^r	1,420
October	933	323	1,400
Total	9,120	XX	13,900

^rRevised. XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Production data includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors only. Soda ash equivalent from mine water is not included. Soda liquors are withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

TABLE 2
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN SEPTEMBER 2004^{1, 2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	52,200	\$6,730	\$129
Canada	36,100	3,030	84
Brazil	34,600	3,830	111
Indonesia	32,400	3,380	104
Belgium	24,300	3,130	129
Japan	23,800	2,690	113
Korea, Republic of	22,800	2,460	108
Thailand	21,500	1,960	91
Venezuela	16,000	1,940	121
Argentina	14,900	1,820	122
Other	60,600	6,600	109
Total or average	339,000	37,600	111

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²October 2004 data were not available at time of publication.

³Free alongside ship value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2004^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	Total	% of total
Argentina	20,500	19,600	31,500	--	13,500	4,000	9,010	15,100	14,900	128,000	4
Australia	--	15,500	7,500	15,500	--	--	14,700	9,500	13,000	75,700	2
Belgium	21,200	10,000	38,400	9,670	32,400	8,920	--	12,400	24,300	157,000	5
Brazil	15,000	28,200	8,550	39,600	10,000	33,200	18,600	45,500	34,600	233,000	7
Canada	28,100	28,800	37,500	30,700	27,400	30,400	33,900	36,200	36,100	289,000	8
Chile	409	30,700	11,200	30,600	29,900	32,500	--	30,100	--	165,000	5
China	23,000	31,400	22,900	5,000	17,400	6	8,010	18,200	10,200	136,000	4
Colombia	9,340	11,000	20,200	11,100	9,250	9,000	9,300	14,700	--	93,800	3
Costa Rica	--	2,000	--	2,000	--	2,000	--	--	--	6,000	(3)
Dominican Republic	--	--	27	36	--	--	--	--	--	63	(3)
Ecuador	5,310	--	--	--	--	--	6,000	--	--	11,300	(3)
Finland	--	--	--	34	--	--	--	--	17	51	(3)
France	6,940	21,000	7,540	--	10,000	17,400	8,940	--	--	71,800	2
Germany	347	--	578	--	--	--	--	--	--	925	(3)
Guatemala	--	5	--	2,500	3,000	3,500	--	3,000	--	12,000	(3)
Indonesia	42,300	--	38,800	22,600	45,300	31,300	28,700	--	32,400	241,000	7
Ireland	--	40	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	40	(3)
Italy	31	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	31	(3)
Japan	37,900	56,900	8,500	45,900	27,600	30,800	58,300	35,500	23,800	325,000	9
Korea, Republic of	18,100	16,900	19,000	20,900	14,900	23,600	--	22,600	22,800	159,000	5
Malaysia	--	8,000	16,500	8,000	--	17,700	--	19,000	--	69,200	2
Mexico	36,800	46,800	46,900	54,400	57,400	39,100	41,800	48,100	52,200	424,000	12
Netherlands	6,020	9,470	10,100	--	14,000	--	--	16,800	--	56,400	2
Netherlands Antilles	--	--	--	--	20	--	17	--	--	37	(3)
New Zealand	6,600	5,000	--	6,000	--	--	5,000	7,500	--	30,100	1
Pakistan	--	--	--	--	--	5,000	--	--	--	5,000	(3)
Panama	--	--	--	--	--	2,000	--	2,000	--	4,000	(3)
Peru	1,580	3,900	--	2,500	2,000	7,500	--	--	--	17,500	1
Philippines	7,500	--	12,000	--	8,000	8,000	4,500	--	11,800	51,800	1
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	11	34	138	183	(3)
Portugal	--	--	9,500	--	--	--	8,500	--	--	18,000	1
Russia	3	--	158	--	--	--	--	--	--	161	(3)
Saudi Arabia	--	20,000	16,000	--	17,000	23,000	--	18,000	--	94,000	3
South Africa	6,500	--	--	9,500	--	--	15,200	--	--	31,200	1
Spain	49	14,700	5,090	15,100	13,000	10,700	5,050	9,400	13,000	86,100	2
Taiwan	11,000	45,800	--	29,300	16,400	15,000	11,000	--	12,500	141,000	4
Thailand	19,000	16,200	14,900	10,000	--	21,200	26,200	22,000	21,500	151,000	4
United Arab Emirates	--	8,000	8,000	--	6,000	--	--	9,000	--	31,000	1
United Kingdom	--	--	24	7,700	--	2	60	--	--	7,790	(3)
Venezuela	366	16,700	31,300	24,100	12,800	25,800	9,500	8,790	16,000	145,000	4
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	10,000	--	--	--	10,000	(3)
Total	324,000	467,000	423,000	403,000	387,000	412,000	322,000	403,000	339,000	3,480,000	100

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²October 2004 data were not available at time of publication.

³Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH^{1,2}

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)
2003:		
September	266	\$104
October	331	103
November	435	126
December	543	144
Total (January-September)	4,020	1,140
Year total	5,330	1,510
2004:		
January	511	155
February	470	123
March	438	141
April	332	137
May	448	174
June	517	193
July	600	189
August	504	163
September	627	137
Total	4,450	1,410

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²October 2004 data were not available at time of publication.

³Cost, insurance, and freight value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption ²
				Increase	Decrease	
2003:						
September	869,000	266	385,000	--	36,800	522,000
October	913,000	331	295,000	4,910	--	613,000
November	860,000	435	404,000	18,000	--	439,000
December	925,000	543	426,000	21,300	--	478,000
Total (January-September)	7,940,000	4,020	3,330,000	64,200	--	4,550,000
Year total	10,600,000	5,330	4,450,000	108,000	--	6,090,000
2004:						
January	857,000	511	324,000	660	--	533,000
February	852,000	470	467,000	--	40,200	426,000
March	937,000	438	423,000	--	26,900	541,000
April	913,000	332	403,000	16,800	--	494,000
May	935,000	448	387,000	18,700	--	529,000
June	894,000	517	412,000	--	47,000	530,000
July	963,000	600	322,000	65,600	--	576,000
August	929,000	504	403,000	--	51,300	578,000
September	907,000 ^r	627	339,000	--	36,600 ^r	605,000
October	933,000	NA	NA	93,200	--	NA
January-September	8,190,000	4,450	3,480,000	--	100,000	4,810,000

^rRevised. NA Not available. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.